

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF GEORGIA**

Joyce L. Wilson,

Plaintiff,

v.

Merchants Preferred Lease-Purchase
Systems,

Defendant.

:
: Civil Action No.: _____
:

:
: **COMPLAINT**
: **JURY TRIAL DEMANDED**
:
:

For this Complaint, Plaintiff, Joyce L. Wilson, by undersigned counsel,
states as follows:

JURISDICTION

1. This action arises out of Defendant's repeated violations of the
Telephone Consumer Protection Act 47 U.S.C. § 227, *et seq.* (the "TCPA").

2. Venue is proper in this District pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1391(b), in
that Defendant transacts business in this District and a substantial portion of the
acts giving rise to this action occurred in this District.

PARTIES

3. Plaintiff, Joyce L. Wilson ("Plaintiff"), is an adult individual residing
in Fairmont, West Virginia, and is a "person" as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153(39).

4. Defendant Merchants Preferred Lease-Purchase Systems
("Merchants"), is a Georgia business entity with an address of 5500 Interstate North

Parkway, Suite 350, Atlanta, Georgia 30325, and is a “person” as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 153(39).

FACTS

5. Within the last year, Merchants began calling Plaintiff’s cellular telephone, number 404-xxx-5691, using an automatic telephone dialing system (“ATDS”). Plaintiff had provided this number as part of her account application.

6. When Plaintiff answered calls from Merchants, she heard silence and had to wait on the line before she was connected to the next available representative.

7. In July of 2018, Plaintiff spoke with a live representative and requested that all calls to her cease.

8. Nevertheless, Merchants continued to place automated calls to Plaintiff’s cellular telephone number.

COUNT I **VIOLATIONS OF THE TCPA – 47 U.S.C. § 227, et. seq.**

9. Plaintiff incorporates by reference all of the above paragraphs of this Complaint as though fully stated herein.

10. At all times mentioned herein, Defendant called Plaintiff’s cellular telephone number using an ATDS or predictive dialer.

11. In expanding on the prohibitions of the TCPA, the Federal Communications Commission (“FCC”) defines a predictive dialer as “a dialing system that automatically dials consumers’ telephone numbers in a manner that “predicts” the time when a consumer will answer the phone and a [representative] will be available to take the call...”*2003 TCPA Order*, 18 FCC 36 Rcd 14022. The FCC explains that if a representative is not “free to take a call that has been placed by a predictive dialer, the consumer answers the phone only to hear ‘dead air’ or a dial tone, causing frustration.” *Id.* In addition, the TCPA places prohibitions on companies that “abandon” calls by setting “the predictive dialers to ring for a very short period of time before disconnecting the call; in such cases, the predictive dialer does not record the call as having been abandoned.” *Id.*

12. Defendant’s telephone system(s) have some earmarks of a predictive dialer.

13. When Plaintiff answered calls from Defendant, she heard silence before Defendant’s telephone system would connect her to the next available representative.

14. Defendant’s predictive dialers have the capacity to store or produce telephone numbers to be called, using a random or sequential number generator.

15. Defendant placed automated calls to Plaintiff’s cellular telephone number despite knowing that it lacked consent to do so. As such, each call placed

to Plaintiff was made in knowing and/or willful violation of the TCPA, and subject to treble damages pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(C).

16. The telephone number called by Defendant was and is assigned to a cellular telephone serviced by Boost Mobile for which Plaintiff incurs charges pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1).

17. Plaintiff was annoyed, harassed and inconvenienced by Defendant's continued calls.

18. The calls from Defendant to Plaintiff were not placed for "emergency purposes" as defined by 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(1)(A)(i).

19. Plaintiff is entitled to an award of \$500.00 in statutory damages for each call in violation of the TCPA pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B).

20. As a result of each call made in knowing and/or willful violation of the TCPA, Plaintiff is entitled to an award of treble damages in an amount up to \$1,500.00 pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B) and 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(C).

PRAYER FOR RELIEF

WHEREFORE, Plaintiff prays that judgment be entered against Defendant:

A. Statutory damages of \$500.00 for each violation determined to be negligent pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(B);

- B. Treble damages for each violation determined to be willful and/or knowing pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 227(b)(3)(C); and
- C. Such other and further relief as may be just and proper.

TRIAL BY JURY DEMANDED ON ALL COUNTS

Dated: November 13, 2018

Respectfully submitted,

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